

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 11-15, 18, 22-27, 29-33, and 44-49 are presently pending. Claims 34-43 have been canceled in this amendment.

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of Claims 1-6, 11-15, 18, 22-27, 29-31, and 49.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 33 and 45 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 33 and 45 depend from allowable claims in view of the below discussion.

The specification has been amended to identify the corresponding issued U.S. patent to U.S. Application No. 08/883,329, which is incorporated into the application herein by reference. The issued patent is U.S. Patent 6,258,443. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims 32, 44, and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 32, 44, and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benson *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,287,670) in view of Martin *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,786,066).

Independent Claim 32 is directed to a retroreflective chip that includes a structure that has a plurality of open-faced cube-corner surfaces formed therein. The structure has a length less than about 457 micrometers. A metal layer is formed on the surfaces that retroreflects incident light thereon such that retroreflected light does not pass through the structure. Independent Claim 44 is directed to retroreflective chips include first open-faced cube-corner surfaces having an optical coating thereon. The coating retroreflects light incident thereon such that light does not pass through the chips. Each chip has a length less than about 457 micrometers.

Martin *et al.* fail to remedy the deficiencies of Benson *et al.* Martin *et al.* fail to disclose or suggest open-faced cube-corner surfaces in a structure. To the contrary, Martin *et al.* disclose individually freed retroreflective prisms that are formed of solid material through which light can pass to retroreflect within the prisms. The freed prisms are stripped individually from a release

coating. Traditional solid cube-corner prisms are a teaching away from open-faced cube-corner surfaces.

Second, Benson *et al.* and Martin *et al.* each fail to disclose or suggest a chip having a length less than about 457 micrometers. Benson *et al.* do disclose a length along the window side of each prism being about 898 micrometers, which is about twice the size of the upper limit claimed by Applicants. However, these are individual prisms and not chips. Chips include a structure having a plurality of open-faced cube-corner surfaces formed therein and a metal layer formed on the surfaces that retroreflects incident light thereon such that retroreflected light does not pass through the structure.

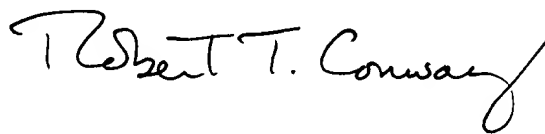
It is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in Benson *et al.* and Martin *et al.* to combine the teachings together to render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

CONCLUSION


In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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